(b) No, Sir. But where an interested party pays each year as non-returnable contribution (NRC), the recurring expenditure on account of a Post Office, less its income, Government will open and maintain the Post Office.

(c) Post Offices are opened progressively under the annual plan subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources. 1568 Post Offices have been sanctioned during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year plan.

Filling up of the post of Dy. Chairman and Secretary in Paradip Port

1128. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Dy. Chairman and Secretary in Paradip Port (Orissa) are lying vacant for the last several years as a result of which there is administrative breakdown and financial mismanagement;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore; and

(c) what steps Government propose to fill up the vacant posts to gear up the administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The post of Dy. Chairman in Paradip Port Trust is vacant w.e.f. 30.11.1991. The matter for filing up the post is being processed in consultation with Deptt. of Fersonnel & Training. As regards the post of Secretary of the Port, the incumbent is under suspension. So long as he is under suspension, the question of filling up the post does not arise.

Post-Quake Help Sought by Russia

1129. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia had made an appeal to India to rush men and materials to the quake affected areas within that country;

(b) if so, the extent of help rendered by India to that country; and

(c) the total amount of aid given by India to that country in this hour of trial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No Sir. No official appeal was made by Russia to India for assistance after the earthquake.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Productivity of Hooghly Dock Engineers Limited

1130. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether improvement of infrastructure and technological upgradation is required to be taken for achieving higher productivity in Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL) as per Ministry's annual report of 1994-95;

(b) if so, whether the same is possible without any investment;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted by Government to suggest measures for revival of HDPEL with 'no' investment from Government;

(d) whether there is any precedent where a sick industry has been made viable with 'no' investment; and